



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

Stephen Truesdale Carney  
191 Spring Road  
North Kingstown RI 02852

**COPY MAILED**

**OCT 13 2006**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of Carney	:	
Application No. 10/800,608	:	Decision on Petition
Filing Date: March 15, 2004	:	
For: Alfalfa Sprout Powder Based	:	
Supplement	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed August 8, 2006, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

“[T]he question of whether an applicant’s delay in prosecuting an application was unavoidable must be decided on a case-by-case basis, taking all of the facts and circumstances into account.”<sup>1</sup> The general question asked by the Office is: “Did petitioner act as a reasonable and prudent person in relation to his most important business?”<sup>2</sup> A lack of knowledge of, or failure to understand, a PTO rule, the content of the MPEP, or an Official Gazette notice will not constitute unavoidable delay.<sup>3</sup>

The showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.137(a).

Facts:

A non-final Office action was mailed January 13, 2006. The Office action set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months.

Petitioner asserts a reply was timely filed in response to the non-final Office action.

<sup>1</sup> Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 977 (1982).

<sup>2</sup> See In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497 (D.C. Cir. 1912).

<sup>3</sup> See Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 977 (Fed. Cir. 1982) (citing Potter v. Dann, 201 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 574 (D. D.C. 1978) for the proposition that counsel’s nonawareness of PTO rules does not constitute “unavoidable” delay); Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23119, 13, 230 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 621 (D. D.C. 1985) (Plaintiffs, through their counsel’s actions, or their own, must be held responsible for having noted the MPEP section and Official Gazette notices expressly stating that the certified mailing procedures outlined in 37 CFR 1.8(a) do not apply to continuation applications.) (Emphasis added).

Office records do not indicate receipt of a timely reply. As a result, the application became abandoned on April 14, 2006.

A copy of the reply was filed July 28, 2006.

A Notice of Abandonment was mailed July 31, 2006.

Discussion:

Petitioner states the reply was submitted electronically but has not submitted any evidence, beyond the statement, to establish a reply was timely filed. The Office notes petitioner has not stated the date the reply was submitted. Petitioner has failed to establish petitioner's knowledge of the electronic filing system, and rules pertaining to the system. Petitioner has failed to discuss the exact steps taken by petitioner to ensure the amendment was properly transmitted. Petitioner has failed to discuss reasons an additional copy of the papers was not sent by mail or facsimile transmission when petitioner failed to receive any verification of receipt of the electronic submission from the Office.

A reasonable and prudent person, unfamiliar with electronic filing practice, would have filed papers or fees in compliance with 37 CFR 1.8 or 1.10 to ensure their timely filing in the PTO, as well as preserve adequate evidence of such filing, a delay caused by an applicant's failure to file papers or fees in compliance with 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10 does not constitute "unavoidable" delay.<sup>4</sup>

The record fails to prove the delay in the submission of the amendment was unavoidable.

Petitioner may wish to consider filing a petition to revive based on unintentional abandonment under 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required reply (already submitted), the required petition fee (\$750 for a small entity), and a statement that the **entire** delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. A copy of a blank petition form is enclosed for petitioner's convenience.

Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

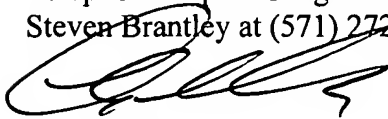
By facsimile: (571) 273-8300  
Attn: Office of Petitions

---

<sup>4</sup> "The procedures set out in the PTO's regulations are designed to provide the type of direct evidence needed to prove when and to where a lost amendment [or other paper] was sent. Had plaintiff's counsel followed these procedures, as a 'prudent and careful man' would have done in conducting 'his most important business,' then he would have been able to provide sufficient evidence to support a showing of unavoidable delay." Krahn v. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1823 (E.D. Va. 1990).

By mail:      Mail Stop Petition  
                 Commissioner for Patents  
                 P.O. Box 1450  
                 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney  
Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Brantley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles Steven Brantley  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions

Enclosure: Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) Form

**PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT  
ABANDONED UNINTENTIONALLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)**

Docket Number (Optional)

First named inventor:

Application No.:

Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

Title:

Attention: Office of Petitions  
**Mail Stop Petition**  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
 FAX (571) 273-8300

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to file a timely and proper reply to a notice or action by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The date of abandonment is the day after the expiration date of the period set for reply in the office notice or action plus an extensions of time actually obtained.

**APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR REVIVAL OF THIS APPLICATION**

NOTE: A grantable petition requires the following items:

- (1) Petition fee;
- (2) Reply and/or issue fee;
- (3) Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee - required for all utility and plant applications filed before June 8, 1995; and for all design applications; and
- (4) Statement that the entire delay was unintentional.

**1. Petition fee**

☐ Small entity-fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (37 CFR 1.17(m)). Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ Other than small entity – fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (37 CFR 1.17(m))

**2. Reply and/or fee**

A. The reply and/or fee to the above-noted Office action in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ (identify type of reply):

- ☐ has been filed previously on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ is enclosed herewith.

B. The issue fee and publication fee (if applicable) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ has been paid previously on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ is enclosed herewith.

[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.137(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**3. Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee**

☐ Since this utility/plant application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, no terminal disclaimer is required.

☐ A terminal disclaimer (and disclaimer fee (37 CFR 1.20(d)) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a small entity or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for other than a small entity) disclaiming the required period of time is enclosed herewith (see PTO/SB/63).

4. STATEMENT: The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. [NOTE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office may require additional information if there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional (MPEP 711.03(c), subsections (III)(C) and (D)).]

**WARNING:**

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name\_\_\_\_\_  
Registration Number, if applicable\_\_\_\_\_  
Address\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number\_\_\_\_\_  
AddressEnclosures: ☐ Fee Payment☐ Reply☐ Terminal Disclaimer Form☐ Additional sheets containing statements establishing unintentional delay☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

☐ Deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

☐ Transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

## Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.